Minutes

Meeting	EEF Extraordinary General Assembly
Date	06 October 2025
Time	**16:00-18:30:00 CET**
Location	Kursaal Convention Centre, SMR
Chair	Quentin Simonet
Minutes	Shannon Bruchard-Gibbons

Attendees:
NF's presented

AUT – Cornelia Schupfer, Franz Schiefermair
BEL – Cathy Marlier
BUL – Peter Cholakov, Kroum Rachkov, Velyana Zhelyazova,
CRO – Alan Andabaka
CZE – Petr Kuklik, Lenka Sekaninova
DEN – Jens-Erik Majlund
ESP – Venancio Garcia Ovies
EST - Katrin Pill
FIN - Jukka Koivisto
FRA - Catherine Bonnichon - De Rancourt
GBR – Fields Wicker-Miurin, Jim Eyre
GER - Philine Ganders-Meyer
GRE – George Dimaras
HUN - Dorottya Strobl
IRL – Denis Duggan, Avalon Everett
ISR - Amichai Alperovich
ITA - Simone Perillo, Marco Di Paola, Alessandra Raponi, Andrea White
NED - Hidde Frankena
NOR – Emil Flam
POL - Karolina Mądry, Tomasz Półgrabski
ROU - Marilena Mladin
SMR – Elisa Zafferani
SRB - Ana Branković
SUI – Michel Sorg
SVK - Zuzana Baciak Masarykova
SWE – Sandra Ruuda, Johan Fyrberg
UKR – Tetiana Sheinich, Kostiantyn Bondariev

NF's represented

ALB, BIH, CYP, LAT, LIE, LUX, MKD, MON, MLT, POR, SLO, TUR

LTU – Did not attend

Guests:

FEI Fransico Lima

EEF Quentin Simonet
George Dimaras
Elisabeth Max-Theurer
Nayla Stoessel
Soenke Lauterbach
Simone Perillo
Alan Andabaka
Klaus Roeser

Teodor Sheytanov
Shannon Bruchard-Gibbons
Luz Bella Lendinez Martinez

Pt.	Topic	Speaker	Annex
1	**Welcome & Introduction by the President** EEF President, Quentin Simonet (QS), opened the Extraordinary General Assembly welcoming all delegates and expressing gratitude to the San Marino Equestrian Federation for their hospitality. He noted with pleasure the presence of new faces among the delegates and emphasised the importance of collaboration and unity within the European equestrian community. QS spoke about the ongoing process of strengthening the Federation through closer cooperation between National Federations (NFs) and the EEF, stressing that building a robust and sustainable structure is a gradual process that requires collective commitment. He underscored the need for vigilance and active participation from all NFs, inviting them to bring forward constructive proposals and to take ownership of the Federation's growth and direction. QS highlighted that the decisions taken during the meeting would directly influence the voting and strategic decisions scheduled for the General Assembly the following day, which would in turn help shape the future of the EEF. He thanked all member federations for their trust, engagement, and partnership over the past year, and officially declared the Extraordinary General Assembly open. Following the opening, QS proposed the appointment of the Secretary of the General Assembly. Teodor Sheynatov (TS) was approved as Secretary and addressed the Assembly, outlining the	QS	

	procedural framework for the meeting, detailing the number of proxies and delegates present, ensuring that all formal requirements were met before proceeding.		
2	**Quorum** TS confirmed the meeting's quorum was achieved. A total of 12 National Federations were represented by proxy and 27 were present in person, with Lithuania (LTU) absent, bringing the total to 39 federations presented and represented. With this, the Assembly met the legal requirement for quorum and was deemed eligible to deliberate and vote on the proposed statutory changes.	QS	
3	**Appointment of Scrutineers** TS proceeded with the appointment of scrutineers, proposing Franz Schiefermair (AUT) and Dorottya Strobl (HUN). The General Assembly approved both appointments through a formal vote, without abstention. The appointed scrutineers were thanked and tasked with supervising the voting procedures during the meeting.	QS	
4	**Approval of the Agenda** TS presented the agenda, which had been circulated in advance, and asked the Assembly for its approval. There were no comments, objections, or proposed amendments. The General Assembly approved the agenda as presented, allowing the meeting to proceed according to the planned structure and timeline.	QS	
5	**Approval of the EEF Statutes Changes** TS introduced the main agenda item of the meeting — the approval of amendments to the EEF Statutes. He explained that the proposed changes had been discussed in depth at two prior meetings, including a presentation at the EGA in Frankfurt earlier in the year, and had been circulated to all member federations beforehand. To ensure clarity and transparency, it was decided that the statutes would be voted on article by article rather than as a single block, so that members could express their approval or reservations on specific provisions individually. The voting commenced with each article being presented in sequence. Articles 1 through 20 were approved unanimously, with no abstentions or votes against. Certain articles, such as Articles 4 and 5, required an 80% majority under Belgian law, which was achieved without objection. All articles were approved as presented.	QS	X

	A significant debate emerged regarding Article 21, following a proposal from the Balkan Equestrian Council (BEC) to modify the eligibility criteria for board representation, specifically to prevent individuals employed by National Federations from serving on the EEF Board. The Bulgarian NF representative, Peter Cholakov, explained that the intent behind the proposal was not personal but aimed at opening a principled discussion on mitigating conflicts of interest and aligning EEF's governance practices with those of the FEI. Several speakers contributed to the discussion. QS acknowledged the value of raising the issue but cautioned against closing the discussion prematurely, emphasising that conflicts of interest exist in all organisations and that the EEF must continue developing transparent internal regulations to manage them. EEF Board member Soenke Lauterbach (GER) reflected that while conflicts of interest may arise, they have historically been handled properly within the EEF through transparency and recusal when necessary. They warned that strict statutory restrictions might deprive the EEF of experienced and knowledgeable individuals who have greatly contributed to its success. NF Representatives from Bulgaria, Romania, and Italy shared their perspectives, stressing the importance of establishing clear rules that safeguard fairness without discouraging capable leadership. The Romanian Federation's President, Marilena Mladin, called for transparency and accountability as essential principles for ensuring trust within the organisation. QS reiterated that the discussion would remain open and that the Board would explore mechanisms to address conflicts of interest through future internal regulations. The Assembly then proceeded to vote on the BEC proposal, which required 26 votes to pass. The results were 8 (eight) votes in favour, 23 (twenty three) against, and 6 (six) abstentions, resulting in the proposal's rejection. Subsequently, the Assembly voted on the originally proposed version of Article 21, which was approved with two votes against and ten abstentions, achieving the required two-thirds majority. The Assembly then continued and proceeded with the vote on Articles 22 through 35, all of which were approved unanimously. During the voting on Article 29 (Accounting), the Dutch NF representative Hidde Frankena raised concerns regarding the fiscal year, suggesting it be aligned with the calendar year (January to December) to simplify financial reporting. It was noted that the current July–June cycle was originally chosen to comply with		

	Belgian law and to avoid scheduling the General Assembly during the spring competition season. Other members echoed the call for greater clarity in the financial reports and a more standardised, accessible format. QS proposed the idea of establishing a financial working group to review and improve reporting practices. Following these discussions and the completion of all votes, TS announced that all statutory amendments had been approved. QS thanked the Assembly for its constructive engagement and commended the Board and working groups for their extensive efforts to prepare and communicate the new statutes. He emphasised that this process reflected an increasingly open and participatory governance culture within the EEF. The debate then returned briefly to the broader issue of governance and conflict of interest. Francisco from the FEI shared examples of the FEI's own best practices, including mandatory annual disclosure forms and recusal procedures for board members in cases of potential conflict. He underlined the importance of practical and well-monitored compliance mechanisms rather than rigid prohibitions. Delegates from Sweden, the Netherlands, and Switzerland proposed that the EEF gather examples of best practice from other European and international sports federations to guide its governance reforms. EEF Board member George Dimaras (GRE) also addressed the Assembly, recommending that an independent body or committee be established to oversee the development of conflict-of-interest procedures. His remarks were well received, with the BUL NF and others supporting the idea of independence and a defined timeline for follow-up. QS committed the Board to revisiting this issue with the newly elected members, considering both internal expertise and potential external advisory support, and to holding a consultation call with member federations within the coming months to review progress. The meeting further discussed improving inter-federation communication, particularly through the creation of a shared database of contact information for member federations' presidents and secretary generals. This would enhance coordination and allow for more transparent exchanges of information. While the idea was supported in principle, further discussion on data protection and implementation logistics was deferred to the next Board meeting.		
6	**Closing**	QS	

	In closing the meeting, QS expressed sincere appreciation to all delegates for their active participation, constructive debate, and commitment to the shared values of the European equestrian community. He emphasised that the discussions held during the EGA demonstrated the Federation’s maturity and collective will to strengthen governance and unity across Europe. TS concluded the procedural part of the meeting by outlining the arrangements for the following day’s General Assembly and elections, reminding delegates that voting would be conducted by secret ballot. He also provided information regarding the gala dinner hosted by the San Marino NF to celebrate the 40th anniversary of the Federation, inviting all delegates to join at 19:30 for the occasion. QS extended his best wishes to all candidates standing for election and encouraged all members to remain actively involved in EEF initiatives and working groups. He reiterated that the strength of the Federation lies in its people and their continued dedication. The meeting was formally closed at 17:56 CET.		

Quentin Simonet
President

Teodor Sheytanov
Secretary General